

National Multiple Sclerosis Society Upper Midwest Chapter

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## Home Modification Assistance

Supporting Safe and Independent Living
SF 870 (Eken) / HF 780 (Hamilton)

## **Independence vs. Safe Living Conditions**

The condition and functionality of a residence can mean the difference between continuing to live at home and leaving it for institutional care.

Continuing to live in one's home promotes emotional wellbeing, independence, and maintaining a connection to the community. It is also more cost effective compared to institutional care.

Falling in one's home is one of the leading causes of visits to an emergency room or hospitalization for those who are elderly or living with a disability. Falls are physically and emotionally traumatic and can result in death.

In order to remain safely in a home, modifications such as installing ramps, lifts, grab bars, or hallway and room remodels are sometimes a necessity.

Home renovations are costly. Homeowners wanting to remodel a home to accommodate a disability could spend on average nearly \$9,000 and upwards to more than \$20,000 for major modifications.

## **Home Modification Assistance Program**

Create a \$2 million annual financial assistance program through the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency for those who modify an existing home to increase accessibility.

Applicant must be living with a disability or be over the age of 65, and have an income under 450% of the federal poverty guidelines.

Family Size	AGI at 450% Poverty
1	\$52,965
2	\$71,685
3	\$90,405
4	\$109,125